Nixon-annual checkup-psychological HW 2/9/74

There seems to be something very wrong with yesterday's story that Nixon had started for Bethesda Naval Hospital for his annual checkup only to be forced to return by snow and traffic on the Beltway.

(By midday Post has not come, not from storm-deliverer's breakdown. So, written with knowledge radio reports only.)

While distance need not be the applicable measure, it is a fact that the Beltway is by far the longer way and it is also a fact that the heavy a.m. traffic is opposite the direction to the hospital from the WH, or light traffic for going there.

It is also a fact that the weather was know and if road conditions were not, any simply check would have disclosed them before leaving WH. Is it not safe to assume that Secret Service makes perfunctory checks and has radios?

It later turned out that the Nixons had a party last night, despite the weather, at what I take to have been Trader Vic's. This a.m.'s newscasts say it had been planned for two days. And with these plans he'd have entered the hospital? Not likely.

Planning the party and planning the hospital entry for the full checkup contradict each other. Both cannot havebeen. Esp. because Jamie had been invited to the party and the aborted alleged trip to the hospital was before the snow fell in any appreciable amount up here, the strom coming from the south.

Why the elaborate charade then, especially one that would soon enough be exposed as ungenuine? Immediately no explanation suggests itself. I wonder, however, if he is getting some pressue about not having had the full checkup and he cooked up this futility to stall it a while.

Can this elaborate and apparent hoaxing be for nothing, unimportant as each of the contradictory elements seems to be?